

# 2001

## Legislative Agenda and Budget Presentation



**Iowa Department of Agriculture  
and Land Stewardship**

# Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

## Goals

- Build a department of agriculture that can respond quickly and efficiently to changing global conditions in agriculture
- Increase Iowa's agricultural market share -- both domestic and foreign, and assist in the removal of unnecessary barriers to agricultural trade.
- Develop and encourage agricultural education and new avenues for Iowa producers to market their products, increasing the independent farmers impact on the market.
- Add value in Iowa to agriculture by developing new products. Create a link for Iowa farmers with consumer-ready markets.
- Preserve Iowa's precious soil, and improve water quality to ensure opportunities for future generations of Iowans.
- Protect consumers and producers by assuring the quality of Iowa agricultural products and animal health.

# **GOALS ACHIEVED IN 2000**

## **Build a department of agriculture that can respond quickly and efficiently to changing global conditions in agriculture**

### **Office of the Secretary of Agriculture**

- USDA Summit Speaker in Kansas City– “Future of Rural American”  
Spoke on the effects of vertical integration and concentration in Agriculture
- Represented Iowa at the WTO conference in Seattle, Washington
- Represented Iowa at the Ethanol Conference in San Francisco
  1. Sharing trends and ideas with other states in regard to the promotion of ethanol
- Spoke before the Senate Committee in Washington D.C. in regards to the effects of vertical integration and concentration in agriculture
- Represented Iowa at the Hypoxia Task Force in St. Louis and Baton Rouge
  1. Striving to protect Iowa’s Environment
  2. Striving to preserve and protect Iowa producers and landowners rights

### **Marketing & Development**

- Sponsored and facilitated a conference on biotechnology in cooperation with ISU’s Grain Quality Initiatives and agricultural groups.
- Cooperatively completed the first study of specialty grain production in the states along with ISU and USDA – NASS.

### **Renewable Fuels & Co-Products**

- Ethanol Hotline—The program gives the public the opportunity to direct their ethanol questions and have them answered by a fuel expert.

**Increase Iowa's agricultural market share -- both domestic and foreign, and assist in the removal of unnecessary barriers to agricultural trade.**

**Office of the Secretary of Agriculture**

- Secretary of Agriculture lead a delegation to north-east China
  1. Promoted trade of Iowa beef.
- Gave an address in Mozambique at the United Nations World Food Program
  2. Promoted trade of Iowa Beef
- Co-chaired the Summit with Mexican grain buyers in Guadalajara
  1. Promoted grain trade between Mexico and the United States
- Attended the Tri Lateral Trade Accord in Saskatoon
  1. Encouraged trade of agricultural commodities and products between United States, Canada and Mexico
  2. Worked to ease trade barriers

**Agricultural Diversification**

- Initiated a Farmers' Market Managers training program.
- Signed up producers to the "Taste of Iowa" logo branding program

**Marketing & Development**

- Showcased Iowa firms and their products on the tradeshow floor at the Natural Products West Food Expo in Anaheim, California
- Showcased Iowa firms and their soy products at the Natural Products East Expo in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Develop and encourage agricultural education and new avenues for Iowa producers to market their products, increasing the independent farmers impact on the market.**

**Office of the Secretary of Agriculture**

- Held an Earthday Celebration at the capitol rotunda
  1. Designed computerized game to challenge attendees knowledge of Soil Conservation practices and promote interest in Conservation practices
  2. Presented the exhibits of elementary children demonstrating their ideas about uses of agricultural products

**Marketing & Development**

- Published the 2000 Hay & Straw Directory
  1. Connecting buyers and sellers of hay and straw
  2. Up-dated daily on our website
- Published the 2000 Agricultural Organization Directory
  1. Made available on our website
- Prepared daily report of grain prices
  1. Published on our website daily
  2. Voice mail of the grain report is made available daily on the Grain Market News Hotline
  3. Published through the USDA wire service daily
- Prepared daily report of livestock prices
  1. Published on our website daily
- Provided input into the Federal Mandatory Price Reporting Regulations

**Department of Ag Website**

- Redesigned the entire website
  1. October of 1999 our page received 27,193 hits
  2. October of 2000 our page received 73,204 hits
  3. Added a newsroom to bring the latest information to the public
  4. Added Maps of endangered species' locations to aid pesticide applicators

5. Added Crop and Weather, Calendar of Events, and pages for each division and bureau
6. Market reports are the pages hit most frequently

### **Agricultural Diversification**

- Consolidation of products and producers into one directory – Farm Fresh 2000
- Worked in cooperation with Governor's office to establish the Iowa Food Policy Council.
- Certified WIC/Farmers Market Nutrition Program – vendors using the ICN network.
- Worked with the Nursery and Landscape industry to secure a 250,000 grant for a tree-planting program.
- Local Food Task Force
  1. Obtained USDA funding to expand direct marketing efforts into Iowa institutions
  2. Obtained private funding: \$5,000 from the Leopold Center.
- Developed the Iowa Wine & Grape Advisory Council
  1. Formation of Iowa Grape Growers Association
  2. Created a newsletter
  3. Created a growers data base
  4. Held ten grape growing workshops
  5. Created a grape production handbook
- Worked in cooperation with the Governor's office on the Iowa Education Task Force
  1. Educate all Iowans about the significance of agriculture in our state
  2. Help more Iowans become actively involved in the opportunities in the agriculture industry

### **Soil Conservation**

- **Environmental Education:** 250 Iowa high school students from 50 schools across the state participated in Iowa Envirothon competition. The Envirothon is a nationwide competition testing students in four disciplines - forestry, aquatics, soils and wildlife. The Division of Soil Conservation collaborated with Conservation Districts of Iowa to hold five regional competitions

### **Iowa Agricultural Development Authority**

- Cosponsored 2 conferences with Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

- Conducted a think tank focusing on identifying the challenges faced by the beginning farmer
- Beginning Farmer Loan Program: Closed 156 loans totaling \$19,675,284
- Conducted ICN workshop at 28 locations, called "Success Strategies For Your Agricultural Business".
- FFA and Post-Secondary Agricultural Students:
  1. 10 FFA Chapter entrepreneurship grants,
  2. Iowa National FFA Chapter awards,
  3. PAS Officer leadership training/conference competition
  4. FFA Farm Business Management award
- Iowa Agricultural Youth Institute: 65 high school sophomores and juniors attended

**Add value in Iowa to agriculture by developing new products.**  
**Create a link for Iowa farmers with consumer-ready markets.**

**Renewable Fuels & Co-Products**

- Provided agricultural educational information to elementary age children.
  1. Highlights a variety of products that can be made from Iowa's ag commodities
  2. Lists Iowa Ag facts to show production volumes and varieties
  3. Provides talking points for classroom instruction
- Provided assistance through the REVAMP program.
  1. Business Plans
  2. Marketing Plans
  3. 87 Businesses applied and received business planning assistance
- Co-Sponsored "Farms, Food and The Future": A conference addressing new possibilities in production, processing, merchandizing, and marketing value-added products.
- Developed pre-feasibility manual for ethanol plants and beef feasibility study
  1. Provides a checklist of items to consider when developing a value-added production facility.
  2. Contains data maps showing hog, cattle, and corn production numbers, railroads, gas pipelines, corn base prices, etc.
  3. Contains computer models into which groups can plug their numbers to help in the planning process
  4. Eight agricultural producers groups started ethanol plants

Midwest Grain Processors – Mason City, Cerro Gordo County

Northeast Iowa Grain Processors – Delaware County area

Quad-County Corn Processors – Galva-Holstein area, Ida, Sac, Cherokee, Buena Vista Counties

Pine Lake Corn Processors – Hardin County area

Little Sioux Corn Processors – O'Brien, Ida, Sac, Cherokee, Plymouth, Woodbury, Buena Vista Counties

Siouxland Energy and Livestock Coop – Sioux Center area

Tall Corn Ethanol – Carroll county area

Crestland Coop – West Central I-80 area



## **Meat and Poultry**

- Successful implementation of HACCP inspection in State Meat and Poultry Plants

## **Horse and Dog Program**

- Promoted Development of an Iowa racehorse and racing Dog breeding industry. Thus far in 2000, over \$700,000 of Breeders awards have been won by breeders of Iowa-foaled horses and Iowa-whelped greyhounds

## **Preserve Iowa's precious soil, and improve water quality to ensure opportunities for future generations of Iowans.**

- Technical assistance and financial incentives were provided to nearly 2400 Iowa farmers, benefiting more than 27,000 acres with the following accomplishments:

Terraces	587 miles
Underground terrace outlets	8,328 feet
Contour strip cropping	948 acres
Contouring	172 acres
Diversions	1,975 feet
Field windbreaks	17,242 feet
Grade stabilization structures	938 structures
Grassed waterways	781 acres
No-till	1,068 acres
Pasture and hay land planting	582 acres
Water and sediment control basins	2,519 basins

### **Watershed Protection:**

The Bigalk Creek watershed project in Howard County received national recognition from the EPA as a "Clean Water Action Plan" success story. Working with local farmers, IDALS and the Howard SWCD, assisted in practice implementation that resulted in: 50% reduction in sediment delivered to the stream, 60% reduction in stream sediment load, and 50% reduction in manure reaching the stream. Bigalk Creek now supports a naturally reproducing rainbow trout population - only the third such stream in Iowa.

Technical assistance and financial incentives were provided to 24 additional local watershed protection projects for water quality protection, flood control, infrastructure protection, erosion control, natural resource protection and recreation enhancement.

### **Conservation Buffers:**

Buffer strips along streams, field borders, and waterways are becoming much more evident across the landscape as Iowa's farmers continue to take advantage of the USDA Continuous Sign-up, Conservation Reserve Program. IDALS is providing technical assistance and sign-up bonus payments, through soil and water conservation districts, to support the program. Through August 15, more than 208,000 acres have been enrolled in Iowa, putting us ahead of our 5-year goal of 500,000 acres statewide.

**Ag Drainage Well Closure:**

Two Ag drainage well closure projects have been completed in Pocahontas and Wright counties closing 36 Ag drainage wells. Two additional Wright County projects are under construction, and five new Ag drainage well closure projects are now in development. Three major wetland restoration projects have been completed, mitigating wetlands that may be affected by the well closure projects.

## **Protect consumers and producers by assuring the quality of Iowa agricultural products and animal health**

### **Animal Industry**

- **Implementation of Aggressive New Pseudorabies Eradication Statute.**
  1. Major new vaccination, movement, and infected herd cleanup requirements.
  2. Known infected herds have decreased from 596 in August to a current level of 293.
  3. 50 of Iowa's 99 counties have no known PRV infected herds.

### **Grain Warehouse Bureau & Dairy Products Control**

- **Continued Protection of Producers and Consumers with Regular Unannounced Inspections/Examination**
  1. Completed 325 grain warehouse examinations and 210 grain dealer examinations in order to protect grain depositors and sellers
  2. Performed 6,987 inspections of Grade A farms and 393 inspections of Grade B farms in order to protect dairy, meat, and poultry consumers

### **Weights and Measures Bureau**

- **Protection to all consumers regarding weights and measures protections**
  1. Performed 40,065 inspections

### **Commercial Feed Program**

- **Conducted 407 inspections at medicated feed mills in Iowa to assure compliance with federal regulations to prevent the introduction of Mad Cow disease into the State.**
  1. No Mad Cow disease is known to exist in Iowa

### **Pesticide Laboratory**

- **Applied for and received a Federal grant from the EPA for \$305,000 in order to purchase instrumentation for the Pesticide Residue Laboratory to analyze for new generation herbicides.**

## **Entomology Laboratory**

- Maintained vigilance in the war against the Gypsy Moth
  1. Set 6,586 Gypsy Moth traps throughout the State with emphasis on eastern Iowa where the threat is the greatest.
  2. All infestations, without exception, have been eradicated.
  3. Statewide Gypsy Moth detects are at a ten-year low.
- Conducted countywide surveys for the Chinese Soybean Aphid to determine the level of infestation and the pest's over wintering tendencies. In late summer, we conducted a survey in eastern Iowa of soybean fields for the presence of the Chinese Soybean Aphid. The aphid was found at low levels in much of eastern Iowa.

## **Laboratory**

- Created the Agrichemical Site Remediation Program to clean-up existing and abandoned agrichemical sites.
  1. Formed a controlling Board consisting of government, industry and producer members

## **Fertilizer Bureau**

- Received a grant from EPA for \$100,000 to assist agrichemical dealers in the adoption of risk management plans to mitigate threats to human health and the environment from unforeseen accidents and disasters

## **Organic Certification Program**

- The Organics Bureau implemented legislation adopted to create an Organic Certification Program.
- Organic certification and standards were adopted late in 1999.
- Part-time inspectors have been used, to ensure compliance.
- 33 applications for certification were reviewed; 21 were certified and 11 are pending; and one complaint was investigated.
- Conducted an organic producer survey with USDA – NASS.

1. During the 1999 production year there were 111,000 acres in organic production in Iowa
  2. There were 884 producers engaged in Organic production during that same time period
- Program Coordinator, Maury Wills was instrumental in the creation of the National Association of State Organics Programs (NASOP)
    1. Maury is President of the Association and lead the effort to have the Association recognized by NASDA
    2. NASDA recognized NASOP in June of this year
  - Conducted 18 presentations across the state promoting the Organic Certification Program
  - Created promotional material containing a program summary and contact information

# Goals for 2001

## **Build a department of agriculture that can respond quickly and efficiently to changing global conditions in agriculture**

### **Regulatory**

- Establishment of a task force on grain handling and distribution in Iowa
  1. Task force will assess the current grain handling and distribution infrastructure system in Iowa
  2. Specific emphasis will be place on identity preservation for conventional and specialty grains
  3. Task force will make recommendations to Secretary Judge
- Provide monitoring of Iowa's Gasoline to Prevent MTBE into Iowa's gasoline and Iowa's groundwater as is statutorily required.
  1. Obtain gas testing equipment to implement the monitoring
  2. Add needed staff required to implement the program

### **Entomology and Seed Laboratory**

- Increase awareness of the growing problem of invasive species
  1. Create an Iowa Invasive Species Council through partnerships with public and private stakeholders to coordinate the surveillance, remediation and eradication of invasive species

**Increase Iowa's agricultural market share -- both domestic and foreign, and assist in the removal of unnecessary barriers to agricultural trade**

**Agricultural Diversification**

- Development of an environmental and incentive-based food quality assurance program as outlined in the final report of the Iowa 2010 Council
  1. Establishment of a unique branding and marketing system for Iowa Agricultural Products
  2. This environmental incentive based program will label Iowa products as a high quality and environmentally friendly good to consumers around the world
  3. These products will be labeled under a brand by the Iowa Department of Agriculture
- Develop an Iowa Grown Product Grocer Brand Program
  1. Establish a program to provide an opportunity for Iowa produce growers to increase the level of their production &/or increase their ability to sell what they currently grow.
  2. The objective of the program is to gain wholesale market access for on Iowa grown value added product through one retail supermarket
  3. Methods: Develop a cooperative/contractual agreement between a group of producers and a retail supermarket which currently carries its own brand name product (i.e. Hy-Vee brand frozen broccoli) to purchase an Iowa grown commodity to replace what is currently being used to make this product (i.e. Iowa grown broccoli instead of broccoli from California)

**Marketing and Development**

- Pursue methods that will assist in the collection and dissemination of retail meat prices
- Work to establish an Iowa Soyfoods Association
- Create a nation wide database of firms that can utilize Iowa products or commodities for their processing and manufacturing needs

**Organics Certification Program**

- Complete an IDALS Organic Program Manual for submission to USDA to receive accreditation with the International Organization for Standardization Guide 65 (ISO 65).



1. These are the general requirements for bodies operating product certification system.
2. Compliance will facilitate the recognition of the state program abroad and will enable producers to increase their market share internationally

### **Animal Industry**

- Establishing elk production as tax exempt under the livestock provisions of the Iowa tax code

**Develop and encourage agricultural education and new avenues for Iowa producers to market their products, increasing the independent farmers impact on the market.**

**Agricultural Diversification**

- Using a portion of the wine gallonage tax for reestablishment of the wine and grape industry in the state of Iowa.
  1. An Iowa Wine and Grape Development Fund would be established that would invest in efforts in Iowa at grape and wine industry development
  2. Funding would encourage further processing of grapes and establish an incubator system for beginning wineries
- Redefining horticultural production for tax purposes in terms of forests and vineyards for expansion of diversified agriculture in Iowa
- First Year Harvest Program
  1. Purpose: Provide assistance to the Iowa producer with the marketing of their product in the form of technical support and a “guaranteed buyer” in the first harvest year. The “guaranteed buyer” arrangement allows the producer the freedom to initiate a new endeavor or expansion or change from a previous one with out risk of market failure during the first year.
  2. The technical support for marketing will be provided by the Ag Diversification Bureau and may include expertise from the private sector
  3. A “Guaranteed Buyer” would be identified as a business or organization, which has experience in buying goods wholesale from producers and manufacturers and retailing to consumers. The producer will not pay a broker fee this first harvest year
- Update and expand database of producers, processors, distributors and buyers of products to create links in the marketplace
- Have received Federal grant funding to implement a Farmers Market Nutrition Program for seniors
  1. Low-income seniors will be given checks to purchase fresh, locally grown produce from local vendors
- Organize workshops for Farmers Market Managers including dissemination of material on arts grants, advertising, and displaying

**Iowa Agricultural Development Authority**

- Iowa Agricultural Youth Institute (IAYI)
  1. Receive 110 applications and accept 100 quality high school sophomores, juniors
- Life-Long Education and Agricultural Resources Network (LEARN)
  1. Establish Advisory Council by January 1, 2001 and Steering Committee by February 1, 2001
  2. Determine educational curriculum by April 1, 2001
  3. Kick off new program September 1, 2001

## **Marketing & Development**

- Creation of an “Ag Tag” License Plate
  1. Proceeds from plate would create fund that would provide grants for ag education, ag diversification, and value-added agriculture efforts in the state of Iowa
  2. Promote pride in Iowa agriculture
- Expand market information on organic and specialty grains including prices.
- Expand feeder and fed cattle price reporting at Iowa auction markets

## **Organic Certification Program**

- Publish Directory of organic producers and processor in the state
- Organic Consumer Promotion Program
  1. Implement a program to encourage consumers to “buy organic”. This program may include PSA’s, billboard signage and other point-of –purchase materials

## **Meat and Poultry Bureau**

- Expand Marketing Opportunities for State Meat and Continuing efforts to Permit Interstate Shipment of Inspected Meat and Poultry Products
  1. Obtain Training Money for Meat and Poultry Staff To Maintain/Enhance Equal To Status of State Program
  2. Requested funds for enhanced staff training in meat/poultry processing

## **Website Development**

- Expand content to include administrative rules and downloadable files of all forms dispersed by the Department

- Incorporate e-commerce in order to allow the public to purchase, and re-new permits and licenses on-line.

**Add value in Iowa to agriculture by developing new products.**  
**Create a link for Iowa farmers with consumer-ready markets.**

**Renewable Fuels & Co-Products**

- Tax Credits for Ethanol Production through New Generation Cooperatives
  1. Specifically for renewable fuel production and value-added processing
  2. Must be member of a cooperative as established by Chapter 501 of the Iowa Code
  3. Amount of credit per member may be the lesser of 50% of the member's cash investment or \$15,000 except for any pro-ration of the members tax credit
- Provide a series of marketing workshops to assist entrepreneurs in learning the skills to market their value-added products
  1. Marketing on the internet
  2. How to perform your own market research
  3. Establishing prices for your product
  4. Building your own brochure
  5. Building customer service
  6. Media budgets and what can be accomplished
  7. Trade shows- what you need to know
- Provide workshops on basic computer skills to rural business people and farmers to help them become aware of the advantages to their business and farms
  1. Establish a series of workshops throughout Iowa to teach basic computer and internet activities
  2. Establish some type of buy-down wherein small rural businesses and farmers could get financial assistance to purchase new or used computers
- Administrrating incentives to increase production of renewable fuels
  1. Workshops on ethanol production, new techniques
  2. Workshops on Biodiesel production
- Increase number of businesses receiving Revamp's business planning assistance and attain follow-through funding

**Iowa Agricultural Development Authority**

- Beginning Farmer Loan Program (BFLP)
  1. Utilize \$31.5 million bond allocation to assist Iowa's beginning farmers (during calendar year
  2. Update BFLP database with current addresses of "active" projects.
- Loan Participation Program (LPP)

1. Process and close additional LLP projects during calendar year
2. Confirm all closed LPP projects have valid final title opinions and current financial statements

**Preserve Iowa's precious soil, and improve water quality to ensure opportunities for future generations of Iowans.**

**Soil Conservation**

- Accelerate implementation of the Iowa Water Initiative to support watershed protection, conservation buffers, wetland establishment, and agricultural input management.
- Provide additional technical assistance staffing and operations funding to support Iowa's 100 soil and water conservation districts, to assist farmers in their installation of soil conservation and water quality protection practices.
- Develop additional projects with landowners to close agricultural drainage wells and provide alternative drainage.
- Establish an urban/rural conservation program to provide technical assistance addressing the issues of expanding urban communities into agricultural landscapes. These would include urban construction erosion control, water quality problems, and watershed activities that effect both rural and urban constituents.

## **Protect consumers and producers by assuring the quality of Iowa agricultural products and animal health**

### **Animal Industry**

- Achieve 100% Compliance with Pseudorabies Vaccine and Movement Requirements
  1. Obtain State Funding to Pay for Monitoring Testing and Subsidize Vaccine Costs
  2. Requested federal money for testing, vaccination, and infected herd buyout
- Allow Iowa to Participate in National Johnes Disease Program
  1. Obtain funds to provide for Johnes testing and services to Johnes infected cattle herds
  2. Infected herds will destroy dairy herd productivity
  3. Infected herds will destroy the market value of the animal

### **Grain Warehouse Bureau & Dairy Products Control**

- Continue Inspections/Examinations on Timely and Required Basis
  1. Obtain Adequate Operating Funds to Offset Escalating Personnel and Operating Expenses and Curtail Continuing Staff Reductions and Layoffs

### **Weights and Measures Bureau**

- Obtain funds for modern and more efficient gas pump testing equipment